

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 27, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. The pending claims, claims 1-3, are rejected. By this Response, claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been amended. Support may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims as amended are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farooq et al. (US 6,719,188) in view of Makhijani (US 4,321,738). Specifically, the Examiner deemed that it would have been obvious to employ a conveyor which would facilitate automation and thereby allow processing of multiple components in a continuous basis.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 has been canceled and claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Therefore, the claims, as amended, are unobvious and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the presently outstanding rejection and that it be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP



Michael A. Makuch
Registration No. 32,263

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1850 M Street, NW, #800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 263-4300
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329